

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 SCI-06

AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 EB-11 COME-00 EA-11

IGA-02 PC-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W
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P R 171420Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2746

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN, PINT

SUBJ: MRS. GANDHI LASHES OUT AT DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CRITICS

SUMMARY: IN SPEECHES JULY 16 WHICH SMACK OF CAMPAIGN ORATORY AND MAY INDICATE THE ECONOMIC PRESSURE SHE FEELS, MRS. GANDHI ATTACKED HER DOMESTIC AND ALLEGED FOREIGN CRITICS. SHE TOLD CROWDS IN BHOPAL THAT DOMESTIC OPPONENTS WERE EXPLOITING THE PEOPLE'S SUFFERINGS WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS IN A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION. SHE ACCUSED FOREIGN CRITICS OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OF OPPOSING PROGRESS BY INDIA AND OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. "NOBODY CAN BROWBEAT INDIA," SHE SAID. SHE ASKED PEOPLE TO REMAIN VIGILANT ABOUT PAKISTAN BUT ADDED THAT SHE DID NOT EXPECT HOSTILITIES. END SUMMARY.

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1. DOMESTIC CRITICS: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IN BOTH BHOPAL AND CALCUTTA, MRS. GANDHI CHARGED THE OPPOSITION WITH TRYING TO WEAKEN THE STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS BY FALSE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION. SHE ASKED WHETHER THE OPPOSITION WAS FREE FROM CORRUPTION. IN CALCUTTA SHE NARROWED HER ATTACK DOWN TO THE AGITATION IN NEIGHBORING BIHAR. "IN THE NAME OF REMOVING CORRUPTION, THEY WANT TO DESTROY SOCIETY," SHE SAID. THE LEADERS WERE NOT CLEAN THEMSELVES. THEY PREACHED NON-VIOLENCE BUT PRACTICED OTHERWISE, SHE SUGGESTED. SHE REPORTEDLY LIKENED THE ECONOMIC SITUATION TO A WARTIME CRISIS AND URGED PEOPLE TO CLOSE RANKS TO COMBAT IT. SHE DEFENDED RECENT ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES. "VERY SLOWLY WE ARE PROGRESSING ALONG THE RIGHT TRACK," SHE SAID. SOME PEOPLE, HOWEVER, DEMANDED DISSOLUTION OF LEGISLATURES BECAUSE "WRONG PEOPLE" HAD BEEN ELECTED. SHE CHALLENGED THEM TO PROVE DEMOCRACY DID NOT WORK.

2. FOREIGN CRITICS: IN BHOPAL, MRS. GANDHI REPORTEDLY SAID ASIAN COUNTRIES SHOULD UNITE TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. MUCH COULD BE DONE IF THEY SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. INDIA HAD REPEATEDLY DECLARED IT WOULD USE ATOMIC ENERGY ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. BUT "OUR NEIGHBORS AND OTHERS" DID NOT LIKE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BY INDIA. SHE CRITICIZED SOME COUNTRIES FOR SINGLING OUT THE INDIAN EXPLOSION WHILE CHINA, FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAD ALSO EXPLODED NUCLEAR DEVICES. SHE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT TOLERATE COMPETITION FROM A "POOR AND FORMERLY ENSLAVED COUNTRY." ALSO, THOUGH THE USG WAS CRITICAL OF THE INDIAN EXPLOSION, MANY "POOR BLACK RESIDENTS" OF THE US HAD CONGRATULATED HER ON INDIA'S EXPLOSION. (THE LATTER COMMENT WAS APPARENTLY NOT REPEATED IN THE CALCUTTA SPEECH AND THEREFORE WAS LEFT OUT OF MANY PRESS ACCOUNTS. IT WAS CARRIED, HOWEVER, BY BOTH INDIAN WIRE SERVICES--PTI AND UNI.)

3. IN CALCUTTA, SHE REPEATED HER CHARGES ABOUT COUNTRIES WHICH CRITICIZED INDIA BUT NOT OTHER NATIONS EXPLODING NUCLEAR DEVICES. SHE REFERRED TO THE THREATS OF "SOME COUNTRIES" TO STOP AID TO INDIA, ADDING THAT EVEN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH PRAISED INDIA'S NUCLEAR SUCCESS SAID THEY WERE STOPPING AID BECAUSE OF VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES. ANOTHER VERSION OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD HER SAYING THAT ONE COUNTRY, WHICH HAD PRAISED INDIA FOR ITS PROGRESS AND ADVANCE, PLEADED INADEQUACY OF FUNDS TO HELP INDIA. STILL ANOTHER REPORTED THAT SHE SAID COUNTRIES WERE BREAKING THEIR PROMISES "BECAUSE THEY NEED HELP FROM OTHERS, AND THOSE OTHERS WERE TELLING THEM THAT, IF THEY HELPED INDIA, THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE ANY AID THEMSELVES." "WE NEVER BROKE OUR PROMISES, BUT THOSE BIG COUNTRIES WHICH TALK TALL ARE NOT KEEPING THEIRS." ALSO, "I WANT TO TELL THE WORLD THAT NOBODY

CAN BROWBEAT INDIA. IF ANYBODY DARES TO THREATEN US, WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE AND TO GIVE A FITTING REPLY."

4. PAKISTAN: MRS. GANDHI CALLED ON BORDER RESIDENTS TO BE ALERT TO FACE ANY EVENTUALITY RESULTING FROM THE REPORTS OF PAKISTANI CAMPAIGNS AND PROPAGANDA. SHE DID NOT THINK THAT ANOTHER CONFLICT WAS COMING, BUT IF SOMETHING DID HAPPEN "WE WILL BE PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE."

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RECALL THAT MRS. GANDHI HAS LASHED OUT AT CRITICS IN SUCH A FASHION SINCE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE OF UP EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE COMMENTS ABOUT POOR ASIAN COUNTRIES AND THE "BLACK RESIDENTS" OF THE US ARE REMINISCENT OF SOME OF MRS. GANDHI'S LESS GLORIOUS SPEECHES EARLY LAST YEAR. PERHAPS THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGN BY J. P. NARAYAN IN BIHAR AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION ARE GETTING TO HER; PERHAPS SHE IS WHIPPING UP A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE TO PREPARE PEOPLE FOR EVEN TOUGHER ECONOMIC MEASURES.

6. THE CHARGE ASKED MEA JT SECRETARY (AMERICAS) TEJA FOR CONFIRMATION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ABOUT US.
KREISBERG

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